

RHEUMATOLOGY

Location: Boise VA Medical Center

FACULTY CONTACT:

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OVERALL EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

To learn the presenting features, diagnostic strategies, treatment and natural history of major rheumatologic conditions, including but not limited to: osteoarthritis, RA, SLE, gout, psoriatic arthritis, pseudogout, systemic vasculitis, and fibromyalgia.

To interpret the common laboratory testing of rheumatologic syndromes including serologic studies and joint fluid analysis.

TEAM STRUCTURE

Attending

R2

MS3

PRINCIPAL TEACHING METHODS

All cases seen by the resident will be reviewed and discussed in detail with the attending. In addition, there are weekly attending didactics on major rheumatologic problems.

EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Mix of Diseases

- OA
- RA
- Gout
- Lupus
- Systemic vasculitis
- Pseudogout
- Seronegative spondyloarthropathies
- Fibromyalgia

Patient Characteristics

Most of the patients are middle-aged and elderly, as well as Caucasian.

Types of Clinical Encounters

The majority of patients are seen in the outpatient setting. Occasional patients are evaluated

as inpatient consults.

Procedures

The resident will have the opportunity to learn the indications and techniques of joint aspiration and injection and to perform these procedures.

Services

The Boise VAMC has a full complement of laboratory and radiologic services for evaluation of rheumatologic conditions. The resident has access to the main clinical lab for evaluation of joint fluid.

ROTATION SPECIFIC SCHEDULE

Two half-days of continuity clinic

The daily schedule will vary according to the clinical schedule of the clinical faculty attending and may include daily outpatient clinic and inpatient consults.

No call or weekend responsibilities

PRINCIPAL EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS USED

There is a small library available in the Medical Service conference room as well as the emergency room. Additionally the main library with texts and journal holdings is situated in the Learning Resource Center near the general medicine ward. Residents have access to this area 24 hours a day.

There is a complete medical library at the VA Medical Center, as well as St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, with texts, journals and available computer access. Point-of-Contact computer reference is available to UW School of Medicine library resources and VAMC on-line reference materials, such as Up-to-Date, Micromedics, PubMed and others.

There is wide availability of personal computers with a network allowing instant access to Medline, Stat Reference, Patient Data and other educational sources.

There are maintained teaching files for particularly demonstrative x-rays, pathologic material, electrocardiograms, echocardiograms, clinical vignettes, etc

METHODS USED IN EVALUATING RESIDENT AND PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

At the end of the rotation, the resident is evaluated in writing and their performance reviewed with them verbally by every attending, fellow or supervising resident he or she has interacted with for a significant amount of time. The evaluator rates each resident on a nine-point scale in each component of clinical competence (i.e. clinical judgment, medical knowledge, clinical skills, humanistic qualities, professional attitudes and behaviors, medical care, educational attitudes, leadership and overall clinical competence).

The resident is given the opportunity to evaluate in writing the quality of the curriculum and the extent to which the educational goals and objectives of the rotation have been met. The resident also evaluates the teaching competence of each attending, fellow or supervising

resident with whom they have interacted for a significant amount of time.

EXPLICIT LINES OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE OF PATIENTS ON THIS SERVICE

The resident is responsible for initial evaluation and examination of the patient, as well as appropriate documentation including initial consult notes and follow-up notes. Every patient will be interviewed, examined and reviewed with the rheumatology attending, who has ultimate responsibility for patient care.